

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND PURCHASING
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3

Members: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1
Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, District No. 5
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., District No. 7
Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

The COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND PURCHASING, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, met on Monday, July 16, 2001, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, S. C., at 6:49 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3, Chairman; Mr. Milton Farley, Councilmember District No. 1; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, Councilmember District No. 2; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Councilmember District No. 4; Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, Councilmember District No. 5; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Councilmember District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Councilmember District No. 7; Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., Councilmember District No. 8; and Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney. Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio was excused.

The requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been complied with by posting the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting of Berkeley County Council at the entrance to the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and a copy of such notice was mailed to all Councilmembers and the News media.

Councilmember Crosby called the Committee to order with the first item on the agenda Denise Mitchum, Berkeley County Water & Sanitation Authority, Re: French Water Creek.

Ms. Mitchum presented the Committee with a recommendation to accept the bid from Quality Piping and Fabricating to install a water line, approximately six inches in diameter, to provide water to a portion of the residents of Cainhoy. The amount of the bid totaled \$89,238.98. Their references were checked and everything deemed proper. There were eight companies that placed bids on June 21, 2001. Quality Piping and Fabricating was the lowest bid. Ms. Mitchum informed the Committee the construction will be within the Berkeley County Easement, and there will be minimum damage to any personal property. If for any reason there is any damage to private property it will be restored to greater than previous condition.

It was moved by Council Member Richardson and seconded by Council Member Pinckney to approve awarding the contract to install water lines in the French Quarter Creek area

to Quality Piping and Fabricating in the amount of \$89,238.98. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The next item on the agenda was Ms. Denise Mitchum, CPPB, Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Authority, Director of Purchasing, Re: Request for Proposals, Debris Management (Contractor & Engineer).

Ms. Mitchum explained to the Committee there was a request for proposals done for the Standby Agreement for the Natural Disaster Debris Management. This is done in the event Berkeley County suffers a hurricane, there will be a contractor in place to handle debris management. Proposals were taken the end of May. There were six companies that submitted proposals, these were short-listed and the top four were interviewed on June 25, 2001. The top choice was DRC, Inc., they met with this company again on July 6, 2001 to negotiate a contract. Ms. Mitchum indicated they were still in negotiation. Ms. Mitchum explained to the Committee there was a desire to hire an engineering firm to manage the contracting. There were three bids submitted for this; of which, one company had pulled out of the bidding. The two companies interviewed are CDM and Davis & Floyd. CDM has been selected to negotiate a contract with, but BCW&SA would like to use Davis & Floyd for any peripheral projects of hurricane debris.

Councilmember Spooner asked the question, "How much money changes hands to have these companies on standby?"

Ms. Mitchum indicated there would be no cost to BCW&SA at this time. Costs will begin to incur when and if the governor activates them.

Chairman Crosby continued with the next item on the agenda, Mark Schlievert, P.G., SWS, Re: Sealed Bids: Grinder, Trommel Screen and Protest and grinding services.

Mr. Schlievert addressed the Committee stating, "This has been trying to say the least." Mrs. Schlievert directed the Committee's attention to a picture of the compost area, and indicated that this was only half of the debris located at the landfill. Mr. Schlievert explained the bidding was conducted two ways: 1) to have the grinding operations contracted out, and 2) to do the grinding in-house. It was done this way to see which avenue would be the most economical. Mr. Schlievert indicated D&S Construction of Pineville, Inc. was the lowest bid for the grinding operation to be contracted out; however, a cost of \$728,000 would have to be paid out in one year. BCW&SA does not have the money to do this.

Councilmember Spooner asked how much was the expected cost of this project?

Mr. Schlievert, explained, he was told by Marc Hehn in August 2000 that there was a consent order from DHEC. At that time there were no funds to pay for this type of project. The first option explored was to burn the compost. There was a plan in place to burn the pile in a permitted burn site, but at the last minute Air Quality from DHEC put a stop to this option. The next option explored was to purchase a Delta machine, which is the only machine that will allow for the debris to be ground in place; without being separated, but the vendor never followed

through with the machine. Mr. Schlievert explained at this time he needed to find a solution because DHEC has given the landfill one year to remedy the problem. Therefore, Mr. Schlievert delayed any purchase of heavy equipment last year. This saved \$150,000, plus this year there is another \$150,000, totaling \$300,000 to use toward this project.

Councilmember Richardson expressed a concern that the request of bids in this manner could be misleading.

Mr. Schlievert explained that from his experience as a contractor, he had an idea that the cost was going to be greater, but that he was instructed to put out a request for bids.

Councilmember Pinckney asked what would be the total cost of doing the project in-house?

Mr. Schlievert stated the bottom line cost would be \$691,398 and would be a lease purchase of the grinder and Trommel Screen, which will allow for five years to pay for them. And does not include fuel expense, which is incurred every year.

Councilmember Mims inquired whether the bidding process had placed any of the contractor's in a bad financial situation?

Mr. Schlievert, indicated that he could not answer that. He had heard that D&S Construction had a piece of equipment waiting around for a month. Mr. Schlievert explained at the bid opening everyone was informed there were other alternatives being explored and the final recommendation would be decided on by County Council.

Councilmember Spooner asked why where proposals not asked for instead of sealed bids?

Mr. Schlievert explained the contracting out was a request for proposals and the machine was a request for bids.

Councilmember Richardson explained again that his concern was the way the bidding was conducted. He expressed he feels like this sort of bidding should not be done again in order to avoid future problems. That will keep Berkeley County from having a reputation of asking for bids and not accepting them.

Chairman Crosby agreed with Councilmember Richardson, but added that Mr. Schlievert was following instructions to conduct the bidding in that manner.

Chairman Vaughn asked whether the project would be able to be completed in the year that DHEC has given? He indicated that one of the construction companies said that it could not be done.

Mr. Schlievert explained that it could be done in one year, and further indicated all that was needed was to have the equipment on site in order to make progress. There was an Aztec machine on site for a few months, but it was not in operation at all times. One of the issues to be considered was an old MSW landfill that must be closed. Mr. Schlievert indicated he had taken seven of his people and turned them into a construction crew and put them to work on this project which will be completed in September and by doing it this way Berkeley County saved 1.5 million dollars. When that is completed the crew will begin on the compost pile, and it will be completed on schedule.

Councilmember Spooner stated she had not been convinced that by doing this in-house it would be more advantageous. She wanted to know what the people that are working on this would do when this project was over?

Mr. Schlievert assured her there are other projects lined up for them to work on once the compost project is finished.

Councilmember Davis asked would there be training along with the machine?

Mr. Schlievert explained there would be two days minimum training, more if needed.

Councilmember Mims expressed the County had in the past purchased a tub grinder that had to be sold because it wasn't what was needed.

Mr. Schlievert stated that was a much smaller machine, and that his recommendation was to purchase a much bigger machine. Mr. Schlievert recommended to the Committee the Diamond Z, 1000 hp grinder, along with the 93 hp grapple attachment that comes with the machine.

Chairman Crosby asked what was the pleasure of the Committee?

It was moved by Council Member Vaughn and seconded by Council Member Pinckney to approve the purchase of 1,000 horse power Diamond Z Tub grinder with an attached 93 horse power Grapple and Extec Model 8-30 Trommel Screen for a total of \$691,398, and passed by voice vote of the Committee. Councilmember Spooner and Councilmember Mims voted "Nay".

It was moved by Council Member Vaughn and seconded by Council Member Richardson to adjourn the Committee Meeting; the motion was passed by voice vote of the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.